

**Priority:** Youth/Young Adult Homelessness Initiative  
**Sponsor(s):** King County Department of Community and Human Services  
**Lead Staffing:** Megan Gibbard, Project/Program Manager III  
**Key Partners:** UWKC, Raikes Foundation with the Youth/Young Adult Funders Group, Building Changes, DSHS, City of Seattle, Providers, youth and young adults

## **I. PURPOSE STATEMENT/SYSTEM CHANGE GOALS**

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The Youth/Young Adult (YYA) Homelessness Initiative will create a more accessible and aligned system of housing and services for youth and young adults across King County. The system will prevent youth in crisis from becoming homeless, reconnect youth with family when it is safe and appropriate to do so; will engage YYA immediately when they do experience homelessness and match them to the housing and services that most fit their needs and best practices; and will collect system-wide data to understand progress towards ending YYA homelessness. System change will focus initially on four key areas, identified in more detail in “Priority Action Steps to Prevent and End Youth/Young Adult Homelessness,” and will be implemented over three years:

1. **Prevention and Early Intervention:** Partner with the YYA Funders on prevention strategies related to: 1) early intervention for runaways, an immediate response to YYA’s who leave home to connect them with support and a safe place to stay, including reconnection with family where appropriate; and 2) prevention services for families experiencing crisis with tools to stabilize and keep their youth safely in the home.
2. **Coordinated Engagement:** Direct young people’s access to housing by coordinating their applications, applying a common strengths-based assessment, and placing them in programs that have worked for other YYA’s like them. Providing:
  - A clearly identified process for YYA’s to request housing.
  - Coordinated housing placements at a system-wide level that matches YYA’s with the most appropriate services based on their strengths-based assessment, as well as program capacity and eligibility.
  - Unduplicated data on the number of homeless YYA’s and their needs/barriers.
  - Alignment with the existing Family Housing Connection coordinated entry system.
  - Community standards around best and/or promising practices in YYA housing.
3. **Data Coordination:** Realize a coordinated data system for assessing community progress toward the goal of ending YYA homelessness. The data system will be integrated within Safe Harbors, support coordination of services, measure community-wide outcomes including Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH measures), and answer the following key questions: What’s the need and what works to address it? Are we making progress?
4. **Comprehensive YYA Planning:** Conduct YYA landscape assessment. Informed by this assessment, best/promising practices and initial YYA coordinated engagement data; develop recommendations for YYA housing and service needs (goals, types and quantity). Design the Comprehensive Plan to End YYA Homelessness in King County by 2020 (the “Comprehensive YYA Plan” in this document) with broad stakeholder input and buy-in.

## **II. KEY MILESTONES AND TIMELINE**

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### Goal 1: Prevention and Early Intervention

- Ongoing collaboration and monitoring with YYA Funders.
- Seek opportunities and alignment with family homelessness system.

Goal 2: Coordinated Engagement

- Completed: Initial system design completed by the coordinated engagement advisory group under the auspices of the CEH Youth/Young Adult Task Force. Initial YYA housing provider commitment secured.
- 4th Quarter 2012: Coordinated Engagement system design finalized through provider working group. YYA housing inventory and assessment tools complete.
- 1st Half 2013: Community/youth outreach and engagement. RFP released and agency/entity selected to manage coordinated engagement. Appropriate interface with family coordinated entry is confirmed. Begin modifications to policies and contracts and continue realigning funding as RFPs occur.
- 2nd Half 2013: Community/youth engagement continues. Coordinated engagement and corresponding data system launched. Initial data pulled from coordinated engagement system.

Goal 3: Data Coordination

- 4th Quarter 2012: Parallel but integrated concept development of the Coordinated Engagement and Case Management functions through Adsystem for Safe Harbors HMIS.
- 1st Half 2013: Development of the coordinated engagement system completed. Training manuals developed. Initial system exists to draw client satisfaction/evaluation data.
- 2nd Half 2013: Agency to manage coordinated engagement selected and trained. Initial data pulled from the coordinated engagement system. Data system enhancements made as needed.

Goal 4: Comprehensive YYA Planning

- 4th Quarter 2012: Communication with the community/youth to assure common understanding and continue building support around YYA system change.
- 1st Half 2013: Conduct YYA landscape assessment and research around best/promising practices for YYA. Receive initial input re: the Comprehensive YYA Plan from the community and YYA Advisory Group. Identify opportunities for professional development/peer learning. Pull baseline data from Safe Harbors. Public funding is initially aligned with planning direction.
- 2nd Half 2013: The Comprehensive YYA Plan finalized, including: best practices for prevention/family reunification, variances to address needs of YYA, regional variances, strategies around integrating service delivery across systems, capacity building, and cost modeling. Public funding is aligned with the plan. Implementation of YYA system changes, including input at community forums, determine need for training and continuum philosophy change.

**II. Policy Issues**

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- Determine system response to McKinney-Vento Act reauthorization under the Homeless Emergency and Rapid Transition to Housing (HEARTH) Act, implicating new requirements for services to YYA.
- Coordinate across systems that impact vulnerable youth, including employment, public schools, juvenile justice, child welfare, mental health and chemical dependency, particularly efforts to prevent youth involved in these other systems from entering the “homeless system”.
- Identify engagement and service challenges and solutions related to all YYA with particular focus on youth of color, LGBTQ youth, and youth struggling with severe mental illness and/or addiction.
- Prioritize YYA funding in the context of CEH priorities toward the most effective and efficient programs faced with finite resources.
- Bring mainstream systems on board to help serve homeless YYA’s.

### **III. RESOURCES**

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#### Available

- The Raikes Foundation and United Way of King County have committed a total of \$1,510,440 to date to the initiative between 2012-2015 to support the YYA Project Manager, a staff position housed at King County, launch of coordinated engagement, coordination of enhancements in Safe Harbors, and comprehensive planning.
- The YYA Funders Group has committed to looking at how they can further support the implementation of the above priority action steps. To date, the YYA Funders Group has identified over \$3M total in new funding in support of the initiative.
- DCHS has \$280,000 projected to support a two-year Project/Program Manager II in service to the initiative. A further \$544,000 in housing capital and services funding is projected to be available in the 2013 funding round specifically targeted for YYA housing and services pending council approval in 2012. The intention is to leverage other funding sources as well, coordinated through the Comprehensive YYA Plan.
- Nationally, increasing awareness and political will around homeless YYA presents an opportunity to obtain greater resources.

#### Still Needed

- Refinement of costs to implement the key areas.
- Ultimately, additional long term resources need to be addressed through the Comprehensive YYA Plan.

### **IV. BARRIERS ENCOUNTERED**

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- Resources are currently being dedicated to YYA interventions in advance of the landscape analysis and Comprehensive YYA Plan anticipated in late 2013. These are resources that would be better leveraged if coordinated through the comprehensive plan.

### **V. ROLE FOR GOVERNING BOARD/IAC/STAKEHOLDERS**

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- Governing Board: Understand both the priorities of the existing implementation plan and the targets of the Comprehensive YYA Plan when it is completed in 2013. Help build political will to sustain ambitious goals.
- IAC: Provide across-systems input on work plan implementation.
- Funders group: Determine how to mesh these priorities with other funding priorities.
- Stakeholders (e.g., YYA Funders Group, Advocacy Group (Mockingbird), other systems and jurisdictions etc.): Collaborate on implementing the plan. Move forward with courage as we change our YYA system to better serve young people.

**I. YYA ADVISORY GROUP**

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Purpose/Charter Statement:

The Advisory Group is not a governing body and operates in an advisory function only – a body of experts regarding the Youth/Young Adult Homelessness Initiative investment priority. It will provide feedback to the implementation of “Priority Action Steps to Prevent and End Youth/Young Adult Homelessness,” specifically as it relates to:

- Prevention and Early Intervention
- Coordinated Engagement
- Data Coordination
- Comprehensive Plan to End YYA Homelessness in King County by 2020

Date Established/Projected Completion Date

Established: January 2013

Completion: January 2014

Chair: Megan Gibbard

Members, Affiliations:

Member	Affiliation	Affiliation Notes
Hazel Cameron	4C Coalition	Provider, South Seattle
Edith Elion	Atlantic Street Center	Provider, South Seattle
Jim Blanchard	Auburn Youth Resources	Provider, South County
Mark Putnam	Building Changes	YYA Funder Group
Grace McClelland	City of Seattle Human Services Department	City of Seattle
Casey Trupin	Columbia Legal Services	Advocacy/Legal
Anna Markee	Committee to End Homelessness	Committee to End Homelessness
Terry Pottmeyer	Friends of Youth	Provider, East County
Antonio Lewis	Highline Public Schools	Schools, South County
Megan Gibbard (Chair)	Housing and Community Development	YYA Project Manager
Dennis Wright	Issaquah School District	Schools, East County
Mary Bourguignon	King County Council	King County Council
Betsy Jones	King County Executive's Office	King County Executive's Office
Katy Miller	King County Housing & Community Development	Housing
Kristin Winkel	King County Housing Authority	Housing
Jennifer Hill	King County Out of School Youth Consortium	Employment
Marcus Stubblefield	King County United for Youth	Juvenile Justice/Child Welfare
Adrienne Quinn	Medina Foundation	YYA Funder Group
Jim Vollendroff	MHCADS	Chemical Dependency
Jim Theofelis	Mockingbird Society	Advocacy/Foster Care
Katie Hong	Raikes Foundation	YYA Funder Group
Rowena Harper	Street Youth Ministries	Provider, Faith Based
Shannon Perez-Darby	The Northwest Network	GLBTQ Youth
Sara Levin	United Way of King County	YYA Funder Group
Rick Butt	Washington State DSHS	Washington State DSHS
Sean Walsh	YMCA	Provider
Melinda Giovengo	YouthCare	Provider

Members and affiliations include community partners, funders, and field experts from the diverse geographic locations, agencies and specialties for input and oversight of the implementation of the YYA Homelessness Initiative investment priority.

To supplement involvement from additional stakeholders, there will be various opportunities for involvement (e.g. monthly stakeholder and youth engagement forums, ad hoc workgroups, staff involvement with community-based initiatives such as the newly formed Advocacy Committee, and strategic outreach to established community meetings) as well as intentional work with the YYA Funders Group. See proposed roster and community engagement strategy (both below and included in Attachment A).

#### Tasks/Strategies

The key anticipated tasks for this committee the first year are:

- Review coordinated engagement system design, housing inventory, assessment tools, and processes recommended by the lead staff.
- Ensure that work items are aligned toward the development of the Comprehensive YYA Plan.
- Act as a liaison of the Youth/Young Adult Homelessness Initiative, communicating to all regional and countywide stakeholder groups they participate in, as well as bringing news and updates from the community back to the Advisory Group and staff team.
- Support the alignment of community efforts to end YYA homelessness; including the YYA Funders Group.
- Lead reporting/consulting with elected officials.

#### Documentation/Product Expected

The Advisory Group will explicitly advise the Comprehensive YYA Plan. Documentation will include monthly CEH newsletter reports, minutes on the website, updates to funders group and IAC.

#### Meeting Frequency

Full committee meets monthly. Each meeting will be two hours long. Break out work groups will meet as needed and will be open to committed participants.

#### Recommendations and Reporting

Updates will be reported to the Funders Group and IAC on a semi-annual basis.